

# C E COMMON ERRORS

## RITUAL DIRECTOR'S GUIDE TO THE MOST COMMON RITUAL ERRORS

### GENERAL

- The Junior Deacon does not knock when a Brother(s) retires from Lodge, when admitting Brother(s) after getting the Worshipful Master's permission for them to enter or when the Tiler is coming in to Ballot.
- The Junior Deacon always opens and closes the Outer Door.
- At any exchange between the Junior Deacon and the Tiler, there are only a total of 6 raps on the Outer Door – not 7, 9 or 12.
- “Now” never appears in the Junior Deacon's work.
- The following words are always singular: blessing, duty, labor, instruction, request, answer.
- Whenever stating the Degree during the Opening of the Lodge or during a Changeover, any time an officer speaks directly to an officer of lower rank the phrasing “of Masonry” is used. This phrasing is not used when an officer speaks directly to an officer of higher rank. A good rule of thumb is that if you are at the Sign of Fidelity, you do not say “of Masonry.”
- There is no need to state the Degree when closing the Lodge.
- After the Master receives the password from the Deacons during the Lodge Opening, he must reconnect with the Senior Warden by saying “Bro. S. W.” This is because the line of communication between them was broken when the Senior Warden instructed the Deacons.

- In the Lodge Opening and Closing the Junior Deacon is the only one to use the singular form. The Master and Senior Warden say “govern *themselves*” (plural) not “govern *themselves*” (singular) and the Junior Warden “govern *yourselves*” (plural) not “govern *yourself*” (singular); but the Junior Deacon instructs the Tiler to “govern *yourself*” (singular).
- The Master can rise whenever he chooses in the Opening or Closing of the Lodge. However, when the Senior Warden says “as the Sun rises in the East” we recommend the Master not stand immediately in order to avoid conveying the impression that he is obeying an order from Senior Warden.
- In the Lodge Opening, there is no pause for response when the Master says, “Brother Senior Warden, it is my order that . . .”
- The Master has the right to invite anyone to a seat in the East even if they are late to the meeting.
- In the Lodge Closing the Master says, “So should we, my *Brethren*,” not “So should we, my *Brothers*.” “Brethren” is used when addressing *all* Brothers collectively; “Brothers” is used when addressing a discrete group of Brothers collectively, but *not all* Brothers. Brethren should be pronounced in two syllables as “*breth-ren*” with the same vocalized “th” as in “Brothers.” It should not be pronounced as “broth-ren” or “bro-ther-en”
- When speaking directly to more than one Candidate, the conjunction “and” is never used; thus, “Brother Jones, Brother Smith, Brother Doe, I now present...” The conjunction “and” is only used when announcing names in the third person; thus, ““Brother Jones, Brother Smith and Brother Doe are in waiting...””
- The Senior Warden always talks directly to the Candidates in the singular as in Mr. AB or Brother AB. He never uses the term “My Brothers” when addressing Candidates during Degrees.
- If the gavel is not struck (\*) during perambulation the procession will mark time or stop until the Junior Warden, Senior Warden or Master, as the case may be, raps the gavel once to allow the procession to turn right. If the procession is stopped deliberately by an officer withholding his gavel strike during perambulation in a degree, that officer discretely informs the Senior Deacon of the issue. Any time a gavel strike has not sounded during the perambulation, the Senior Deacon should look to the relevant Officer for instruction. The Senior Deacon then resolves the problem on the floor, preferably without returning to the Preparation Room.
- No Brother who is performing a part of the Ritual assigned to the Master in the Standard Work and Lectures should acknowledge the Master, either before or after that piece of Ritual is presented. This includes bowing, coming to the Sign of Fidelity or verbally thanking the Master. Similarly, the Master should neither announce nor introduce a Brother who is performing a part of the Ritual assigned to the Master in the Standard Work and Lectures. This is because a Brother who is performing a part of the Ritual

assigned to the Master does so as the Master's proxy, and therefore embodies a virtual representation of the Master during his performance.

This commonly includes the Apron Presentation, the Working Tools, the Bible Presentation, the Lectures of Forms and Ceremonies, the Lecture of Reasons, the Historical Lectures and the Charges.

- All positional signs should be assumed to the greatest extent possible with the elbow and shoulder joints forming right angles and all parts of the arms held either parallel or perpendicular to the floor. All movement signs should be executed in a path strictly parallel to the plane of the floor.
- The Brethren should come on the Sign of Fidelity as the Master approaches the Altar to confer the Obligation.
- The Sign of Fidelity can be given in tiled Lodges and on public occasions, but only by Masons who are properly clothed in a Masonic Apron.
- The Masters of Ceremony only salute when reentering the Lodge for the Second Second in the Entered Apprentice Degree.
- Whenever there is a prayer in the Lodge for the benefit of the Brethren, all should be at the Sign of Fidelity. This includes in the First Degree when the Candidates kneel for the benefit of prayer – in which case the left hand must be placed on the Candidate's head – but does not include the Candidates' private prayer in the Third Degree.
- When lettering or syllabing the Senior Deacon always pronounces the word since he is proving himself as a proxy for a Brother undergoing an examination.

## SPECIFIC

# O PENING

1. *T se tt*  
**Page 1, line 19 (2014); Page 1, line 18 (2007)**  
Suggestion: "They" not "we" are duly tiled.
2. *wh th pp*  
**Page 2, line 6 (2014); Page 2, line 8 (2007)**  
Suggestion: "implement" not "instrument" of his office.

3. ***r M Ms***  
**Page 3, line 10 (2014); Page 3, line 16 (2007)**  
 Suggestion: “Receive” not “obtain” the password from the Senior and Junior Deacon, who will obtain it from the Brethren on the right and left etc. The Senior Warden receives, the Deacons obtain. Use the mnemonic “R.O.C” – Receive, Obtain, Communicate.
  
4. ***cmpos a M***  
**Page 5, line 9 (2014); Page 5, line 15 (2007)**  
 Suggestion: “How many compose a Master *Mason* Lodge” not “Master *Masons* Lodge.”
  
5. ***J.D.s plc***  
**Page 5, line 14 (2014); Page 5, line 22 (2007)**  
 Suggestion: This is the only time the Master says “in the Lodge.”
  
6. ***ab th L***  
**Page 5, line 22 (2014); Page 5, line 28 (2007)**  
**and**  
**Page 6, line 1 (2014); Page 6, line 7 (2007)**  
 Suggestion: “carry messages *as* he may direct” – not “*that* he may direct.”
  
7. ***sn is in***  
**Page 7, line 11 (2014); Page 7, line 20 (2007)**  
 Suggestion: “As the sun is in the West at the close of day” not “close of *the* day.”
  
8. ***my ord tt***  
**Page 7, line 23 (2014); Page 8, line 3 (2007)**  
 Suggestion: The Lodge number should be spoken out and not abbreviated. No “ands” are to be inserted between the numbers.  
  
 For example: Lodge No. 1166, should be spoken as “one thousand one hundred sixty-six,” not “one thousand one hundred *and* sixty-six,” not “eleven hundred sixty-six,” and most certainly not “eleven sixty-six” or “one one six six.”
  
9. ***(Number of Lodge) be now***  
**Page 7, line 24 (2014); Page 8, line 4 (2007)**  
**and**  
***My & std***  
**Page 7, line 25 (2014); Page 8, line 5 (2007)**  
 Suggestion: “Open” not “opened.” This is also true for the Senior Warden and Junior Warden when they repeat the Master’s order.

10. ***This command***  
**Page 8, line 4 (2014); Page 8, line 15 (2007)**  
 Suggestion: The Junior Warden says “I communicate *the same* to you” not “*this I* communicate to you.”
  
11. ***WM— Attend at the***  
**Page 9, line 28 (2014); Page 9, line 28 (2007)**  
 Suggestion: Attend “at” the altar not “to” the altar.
  
12. ***to his place***  
**Page 10, line 3 (2014 & 2007)**  
 Suggestion: The Senior Deacon does not give the Sign of Fidelity after he has completed attending at the Altar. He just returns to his place.
  
13. ***Br. J.D.***  
**Page 10, line 13 (2014 & 2007)**  
 Suggestion: The Junior Deacon does not begin by saying, “I am directed to inform you . . .” He simply informs the Tiler: “The Lodge is open on the Third Degree of Masonry.” As always, it is important to keep the Tiler informed as to the Degree.

## CLOSING

1. ***next command &***  
**Page 24, lines 5, 13 and 19 (2015); Page 24, lines 7, 15 and 21 (2007)**  
 Suggestion: “*Stand closed*” not “*stay closed*.”
  
2. ***next regular command***  
**Page 24, lines 6, 14 and 19 (2014); Page 24, lines 8, 16 and 22 (2007)**  
 Suggestion: “*Next regular*” not “*next regular stated*” and also not “*next stated*.” The *regular* communications of the Lodge are *stated* in its by-laws.
  
3. ***regular command, next***  
**Page 24, lines 6, 14 and 20 (2014) Page 24, lines 8, 16 and 22 (2007)**  
 Suggestion: “*specially*” not “*especially*.”

4. ***W.M. May the***  
**Page 25, line 25 (2014); Page 25, line 23 (2007)**

Suggestion: “May the *Blessing* of Heaven” not “the *Blessings* of Heaven.” Blessing is singular here, not plural.

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1. ***fr wch dg?***  
**Page 28, lines 17, 22 and 23 (2007) (2014); Page 28, lines 22, 25 and 26 (2007)**

Suggestion: The line is “Mr. AB is in waiting” – not “There is without . . .”

2. ***Thr bng no objn***  
**Page 29, line 3 (2014 & 2007)**

Suggestion: The correct wording is “There being *no objection*,” not “There being *none*” or “*If there are* no objections.”

3. **\*\*\***  
**Page 32, line 4 (2014); Page 32, line 11 (2007)**

Suggestion: Labor is always dispensed with (and resumed) in the Third Degree, and the Lodge is open (and closed) on the First or Second Degree. *See also* page 89, line 28.

4. ***i th rts***  
**Page 33, line 16 (2014); Page 33, line 20 (2007)**

Suggestion: “Light” is singular not plural (*see* elsewhere in the Entered Apprentice Degree at page 34, line 14; page 38, line 28; page 39, line 6; and page 40 line 4). This is because we are talking about “light” as “Masonic Light,” a.k.a. enlightenment.

5. ***bring th h***  
**Page 40, line 24 (2014); Page 41, line 10 (2007)**

Suggestion: The Senior Warden uses the word “bring” here since he gives a command. “Bringing” is used when describing an action, and therefore not correct.

6. ***addressing the candidate***  
**Page 46, line 20 (2014); Page 47, line 14 (2007)**

Suggestion: The Senior Deacon declares the Master’s movements slowly, deliberately and simultaneously with the Master. He is describing the Master’s actions, not directing them.

7. *(or) \_\_\_\_ dl in EAs*  
**Page 48, line 29 (2014); Page 49, line 27 (2007)**

Suggestion: If there is more than one new Entered Apprentice, the Senior Deacon should say the number: “(two, three, etc.) duly initiated Entered Apprentices.” He does not say their names, and he does include himself in the number. The correct wording is “duly initiated,” not “worthy Brother” as in the Fellowcraft Degree.

8. *come on the step*  
**Page 50, line 8 (2014); Page 51, line 5 (2007)**

The Senior Deacon must make sure the Candidates are on the Step before he gives three raps.

9. *a as EA.*  
**Page 54, line 6 (2014); Page 54, line 29 (2007)**

Suggestion: Teach this Brother (these Brothers) how to wear his Apron (their Aprons) as Entered Apprentice (*singular* not plural).

During the Degrees Candidates attain different stages in their development that are states of being. Therefore, Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason are states of being in the Degree process.



1. *d in EA*  
**Page 90, line 19 (2014); Page 95, line 11 (2007)**

Suggestion: Do not add the word “an” or “as an” before Entered Apprentice, and do not pluralize Entered Apprentice if more than one Candidate. “Entered Apprentice” is used here to describe a state of being.

2. *Jhs, &lf a*  
**Page 99, line 29 (2014); Page 104, line 27 (2007)**

Suggestion: “Left *a* prey,” not “left *as* prey.”

3. *W.M. on ntg*  
**Page 101, line 4 (2014); Page 106, line 5 (2007)**

Suggestion: “*On* entering” not “*upon* entering.”

# 3°

**1. *The examination if done in open Lodge*  
Page 143, line 5 (2014); Page 147, line 5 (2007)**

Suggestion: The Lodge must be lowered to the Fellowcraft Degree before the Candidates enter. The Candidates enter through the Outer Door, salute West of the Altar and answer the Senior Deacon's questions. This is normally done East of the Altar, but may be done anywhere in the Lodge room at the Master's discretion. Following the examination, the Candidates retire through the Outer Door and the Lodge is raised to the Master Mason Degree.

**2. *thb fmg th ngl of a sq*  
Page 153, line 22 (2014); Page 157, line 21 (2007)**

Suggestion: Care should be taken that the Candidate forms the proper angle. The Conductor should assist the Candidate to come on the Step using verbal commands only. No touching below the waist.

**3. *tkn thc & bnd t as, & th ashes*  
Page 157, line 3 (2014); Page 161, line 2 (2007)**

Suggestion: "Ashes" is correct both times regardless of the difference in the cipher.

**4. *Rmv th ct*  
Page 157, line 14 (2014); Page 161, line 12 (2007)**

Suggestion: Care should have been taken in the Preparation Room that the Cable-tow was put on in a way that will facilitate easy removal later. Unwinding several turns is time-consuming and tedious, especially if there are several Candidates. Rather, the Cable-tow can be folded three times and the whole folded rope secured in a knot. This way, the knot can be untied and the Cable-tow taken off with no unwinding.

**5. *faces the West.*  
Page 157, line 27 (2014); Page 161, line 26 (2007)**

Suggestion: At this point, the Master should remember to start the demonstration of the Steps as near to the East as is necessary to ensure that the Brother(s) at the Altar can have a clear line of sight on his feet. This is particularly important in smaller Lodge rooms, where one often sees the Master's feet obscured from the Brother(s) view (behind the Altar) during this important part of the Master's work. The Master should not look down at his feet as he comes on the Steps.

The Senior Deacon declares the Master's movements slowly, deliberately and simultaneously with the Master. He is describing the Master's actions, not directing them.

6. *bringing the right foot to the right of the left, thereby forming the angle of a square.*  
**Page 158, lines 5 and 6 (2014); Page 162, lines 5 and 6 (2007)**

Suggestion: The Master should take care that his feet are forming the proper angle. Remember, you are instructing the Brothers. Every motion should be done slowly and properly, dropping the arms after each Sign and changing the Step clearly before moving to the next motion.

7. *before the W. M.)*  
**Page 164, line 18 (2014); Page 168, line 6 (2007)**

Suggestion: No Brother who is performing a part of the Ritual assigned to the Master in the Standard Work and Lectures should acknowledge the Master, either *before* or *after* that piece of Ritual is presented. This includes bowing, coming to the Sign of Fidelity or verbally thanking the Master. Similarly, the Master should neither announce nor introduce a Brother who is performing a part of the Ritual assigned to the Master in the Standard Work and Lectures.

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